

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Andrew H. Hancock

Serial No. : TBD

Art Unit: 3732

Filed : October 12, 2001

Examiner: P. Hirsch

For : APPRATUS AND METHODS FOR OFF-PUMP CARDIAC SURGERY

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

October 12, 2001

(Date)

E. Richard Skula

Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

(Signature)

October 12, 2001

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the Divisional Application  
filed on eventdate which is a Division of prior pending application  
Serial No. 09/293,630 filed April 15, 1999. Please amend the above-  
identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice Claim 1.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified Divisional Patent Application filed on eventdate herewith which is a Divisional of commonly assigned, copending patent application Serial No. 09/293,630. Applicants have canceled without prejudice Claim 1. Remaining claims 2-10 correspond to the Examiner's Groups II-V contained in the Restriction Requirement in the parent application.

Very truly yours,

Andrew H. Hancock

By: 

E. Richard Skala  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 31,061

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933  
(732) 524-2718  
DATE: October 12, 2001

0976216.101201